



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shana Jones, Special Assistant
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer
(210) 384-7452

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MIDLAND MEN SENTENCED IN FEDERAL DRUG CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 22-year-old Robert Navarrette Chavez was sentenced to 226 months in federal prison and 24-year-old Richard Junior Hyson was sentenced to 235 months in federal prison for conspiring to possess with intent to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base, "crack," and more than 500 grams of cocaine within 1,000 feet of a school.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Robert Junell ordered Chavez to be placed under supervised release for a period of 10 years after completing his prison term, and Hyson will serve 10 years of court-ordered supervised release. Chavez and Hyson are the last of eight Midland men to be sentenced in the case.

In June, 2003, Chavez, Hyson, and several others were charged in an indictment which alleged that they conspired to distribute "crack" cocaine and cocaine near numerous parks and schools in Midland from 2001 to 2003. Chavez's co-defendants – 27-year-old Daniel Gutierrez Carrasco, 23-year-old Sammy Gutierrez Carrasco, 28-year-old Pete Navarrette Chavez, 22-year-old Mark Anthony Garza, 26-year-old David Edward Gonzales and 23-year-old Manuel Alaniz Oropeza – were also charged in the indictment and convicted.

On April 7, 2003, officers from the Midland Police Department executed a search warrant at Pete Chavez' residence. They discovered 215 grams of cocaine in his bedroom, and Chavez later confessed to police officers that he had been storing cocaine for his brother and co-defendant, Robert Navarrette Chavez, on prior occasions. The cocaine seizure was one of several made by the Midland Police Department as part with the investigation into the trafficking organization. Evidence at Pete Chavez's trial last November revealed that - in addition to the cocaine trafficking - some members of the conspiracy distributed "crack" cocaine in Midland on a daily basis for approximately one year, and the total amount of "crack" distributed exceeded 12 kilograms.

On January 14, 2004, Sammy Carrasco was sentenced to 280 months imprisonment and 10 years of supervised release, and Daniel Carrasco was sentenced to 100 months imprisonment and 10 years of supervised release. Manuel Oropeza was sentenced to 92 months in prison and 8 years of supervised release on the same day. On October 14, 2003, Gonzalez was sentenced to 52 months imprisonment and 6 years of supervised release. On November 5, 2003, Garza was sentenced to 24 months imprisonment and 4 years of supervised release.

In a separate case, Robert Chavez's wife, Teresa Strain, was convicted by jury verdict on September 2, 2003, of concealing and harboring Chavez while he was a fugitive. She was sentenced to 33 months in federal prison and 3 years of supervised release on January 5, 2004 by Judge Junell.

These cases were investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Midland Police Department, and the U.S. Marshal's Service, and were prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Parras.

Sammy Gutierrez Carrasco and Daniel Gutierrez Carrasco - who are brothers - were also sentenced to 100 months and 21 months imprisonment, respectively, for their guilty pleas to a Pecos federal indictment charging a marihuana trafficking conspiracy. AUSA Jay Miller prosecuted the Pecos case which was investigated by the U. S. Customs Service in Presidio

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